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Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you all for contributing to the important exchange of knowledge and experience as demonstrated in your participation in the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. You have helped increase the mutual understanding between the peoples of our two countries.

As you may know, the Fulbright Program in Vietnam began with only one program for Vietnamese students in 1992. Today, the Program comprises four components facilitating the exchange of both Vietnamese and American students and scholars. In dollar terms, the Fulbright Program in Vietnam is the largest in the world and I hope that it will continue to grow.

This year, the U.S. Embassy consolidated all four traditional components of the Fulbright Program under the administration of the Mission's Public Affairs Section. The consolidation has helped us offer comprehensive service to Fulbrighters from the moment they leave their home country to long after they return. I invite you to visit the new Fulbright Program office at the Public Affairs Section at 6 Ngoc Khanh, Hanoi.

On one of my recent visits to the office, I had the privilege of speaking to a group of bright and highly-motivated Vietnamese students who were preparing to start their Fulbright journey. These new Fulbrighters expressed to me their sincere hope to continue the wonderful tradition of intellectual and cultural exchange that is the Fulbright Program.

As we start a new cycle of the program, I am happy to announce that we are opening up the fields of studies in the Vietnamese Fulbright Student Program for next year to include all humanities and social sciences. I ask for your help in informing your colleagues and friends about this new opportunity.

Best wishes,



Pete Peterson
United States Ambassador

ALUMNI NEWS

Fulbrighters and International Visitors socialize in Hanoi

Despite the misty rain, more than 55 Fulbrighters and International Visitors met on March 17, at the Rose Garden Tower in Hanoi for a social gathering organized by the Fulbright Program office. Returned Fulbright scholars and students had a chance to discuss their current activities and meet many of their peers. For example, Nguyen Viet Huong, a professor at the College of Social Sciences and Humanities of the Vietnam National University - Hanoi, met and discovered that Nguyen Hong Anh was also working at the same institution. The chance encounter surprised them and they hoped to build upon their new friendship.

Other Fulbrighters found the social gathering useful for widening their network of friends and colleagues in Hanoi. Hiliary Douglas, a Fulbright student who is researching creative writing in Vietnam, commented, "I was surprised to see how large the Fulbright and International Visitor community in Hanoi really is. I had an opportunity to meet a lot of my Vietnamese and American peers and many of them have expressed interest in helping me in my research."

Fulbright Program to support involvement of Fulbrighters through informal events

To encourage greater involvement of returned Fulbrighters in the Fulbright Program in Vietnam, the Fulbright Program office will be sponsoring 24 informal events this year. There will be one event each month in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. These events will range from informal luncheons and seminars to picnics and group trips depending on the interest and leadership of those Fulbrighters involved.

Many returned Fulbrighters have expressed interest in creating stronger ties with their peers. The informal events will give these Fulbrighters an opportunity to discuss ways of involving Fulbright alumni in Fulbright Program activities such as recruitment, social events planning, and alumni news and services. The Fulbright Program in Vietnam welcomes participation at any level by Fulbright alumni in the planning and implementation of Fulbright activities.

The first event in Ho Chi Minh City will be a discussion group scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, to discuss the future of the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. In Hanoi, the first event will be held on April 28, at the Hanoi School of Business (HSB), Vietnam National University. The dates and time of these events are still tentative.

If you are interested in participating or planning these events, please call the Fulbright Program office at (04) 831-4580, extension 150. In addition, if you and your company or organization would like to host any of these events in the future, the Fulbright Program office would like to hear from you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

What	Who	Where	When
Fulbright discussion group	All Fulbright grantees	HCMC	April 12, 2000
Fulbright Roundtable	All Fulbright grantees	Hanoi	April 28, 2000
Vietnam Fulbright Conference	All Fulbright grantees	Hanoi	May 19, 2000

Fulbright Program Director goes on national recruitment tour

Dr. Tran Xuan Thao, Fulbright Program Director will start a month-long national recruitment tour in the middle of March. He will be recruiting candidates for the Vietnamese Scholar and Vietnamese Student programs for next year. Dr. Thao plans to spend a week in the northern provinces and three weeks in the central and southern regions to talk to prospective candidates as well as officials at universities and provincial people's committees.

Dr. Thao hopes to increase significantly the number of candidates for this year's program. To help him achieve this goal, the Fulbright Program in Vietnam has decided to allow scholar and student applicants to apply for study, research, and lecture grants in *all* disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. The new policy will allow more applicants from different academic and professional backgrounds to qualify for a Fulbright grant.

If you know of qualified and interested students and scholars who may be ideal candidates for the Fulbright Program, please contact Dr. Thao. He can be reached on the road via email at fulbrightvn@fpt.vn. Additionally, he plans to attend the Fulbright discussion group scheduled for April 12, in Ho Chi Minh City and the Fulbright Roundtable on April 28, at the Hanoi School of Business to answer questions about the recruitment.

Vietnamese Fulbright Students attend pre-departure orientation

Vietnamese Fulbright students who are heading to the United States to begin their Fulbright grant were greeted by Ambassador Pete Peterson, the Fulbright Director, the Country Public Affairs Officer, and representatives from the Institute of International Education (IIE) at a pre-departure orientation held at the new Fulbright office on February 22. IIE representatives, Mary Kirk and Michael Pippenger, briefed the new Fulbrighters on cultural adjustment, academic life at U.S. universities, and Fulbright support for their study and time in the United States. Also present were three alumni who shared their personal experiences and offered advice. Ambassador Peterson delivered a special message to encourage the students to absorb as much as they can on their Fulbright journey so that they can return and contribute to the development of Vietnam.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

US Embassy
7 Lang Ha
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: (04) 843-1500
Fax: (04) 843-1510

Public Affairs Section - Hanoi
6 Ngoc Khanh
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: (04) 831-4580
Fax: (04) 831-4601
Email: Fulbrightvn@fpt.vn

Fulbright Program Website:

<http://www.usembassy.state.gov/vietnam/www/hfhp.html>

US Consulate
4 Le Duan, District 1
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Tel: (08) 822-9433
Fax: (08) 822-9434

Public Affairs Section - HCMC
9/F, Saigon Centre
65 Le Loi, District 1
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Tel: (08) 821-6400
Fax: (08) 821-6405

ANNOUNCEMENT: 2001 FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION FOR STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES

The Embassy of the United States of America announces the 2001 Fulbright Fellowship Competition. The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State. The Fulbright Program in Vietnam supports graduate level study in the United States by Vietnamese mid-career professionals. It is hoped that Vietnamese Fulbright fellows will acquire skills and education that will be useful to them and to the institutions that employ them.

Successful applicants will receive an annual stipend, round-trip airfare to the United States, health insurance, and have their tuition and fees arranged for. The Fulbright Program places grantees in an academic program that fits their academic and professional needs. Since the program began in 1992, there have been over 200 Fulbright Fellows who have studied at highly respected institutions all across the United States. The 2001 Fellowship Grantees will attend graduate study programs that begin in the academic year 2001-2002.

The Fulbright Program in Vietnam is a competitive, merit-based fellowship program. Each year hundreds of individuals apply for twenty to twenty-five fellowships. The strongest applicants to the program draw a close and clear relationship between the work they now do in Vietnam, the study program they hope to pursue in the U.S., and the value of their U.S. education to their future work in Vietnam. All applicants must meet the following minimum criteria:

1. A serious study objective, preferably in the social sciences, humanities, or professional fields. Fields of consideration for grants include public health, environmental health and science, rural development, American literature, American studies, women's studies, international security, foreign policy, library science, information technologies, economics, public policy, public administration, and law.
2. At least five years of significant professional experience (after university graduation).
3. A university degree with strong academic results.
4. Strong English speaking and writing abilities.

The Fulbright program actively encourages women, minorities, and residents from all provinces to apply.

In order to participate in the 2001 Fellowship Competition, an applicant must complete and submit a Preliminary Data Form with a copy of university degree to the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi as soon as possible. Based on the information provided on the forms, qualified candidates, who meet the minimum criteria, will receive the formal Fulbright Fellowship Application and will be invited to a fellowship information session. Preliminary Data Forms submitted after July 1, 2000, will not be processed. Copies of this announcement and Fulbright Preliminary Data Forms can be obtained—**free of charge**—from the address or the Fulbright Program in Vietnam website below:

Embassy of the United States of America

Public Affairs Section

Rose Garden Tower

6 Ngoc Khanh

Hanoi

Tel: (84~4) 831~4580

Fax: (84~4) 831~4601

Email: fulbrightvn@fpt.vn**The Preliminary Data Form can be downloaded at:**www.usembassy.state.gov/vietnam/wwwfhfp.html

FROM YOU:

Have you moved recently? Please write your new contact details here and fax or email to PAS - Hanoi: (04) 831-4601 or fulbrightvn@fpt.vn.

New Address: _____

New telephone: _____

New fax: _____

New E-mail: _____

FULBRIGHTERS AT WORK

Greg H. Lindsey reports from Nha Trang

Fulbright scholar Greg H. Lindsey wrote the following report, originally printed in "Fulbrighters Abroad," a publication of the Fulbright Program office in Washington, D.C. Greg was a Fulbright research scholar in Nha Trang.

We arrived in Nha Trang in good shape on February 2. We were met by two members of the International Relations Department, and taken to the dormitory. We began looking for a place to live the second day after our arrival. Our choice of housing was complicated by the fact that the university is six or seven kilometers from the main municipal beach where both Cathy and I thought the kids would enjoy living most. Now, after Tet, we've decided to live in a new dormitory that houses graduate students, teachers, and other visitors. We think it will work out well. Staying on campus will enable us to integrate much better into the university community and we think that will have big dividends. If we stayed off-campus, we might relax by the sea more, but we certainly would interact with faculty and students less. Our primary goal is to be useful here at the university, and we can take taxi to the sea when we want to recreate.

The university essentially has been closed since we've arrived. The semester ended before Tet, but I have been able to meet several researchers from the Oceanographic Institute that is across town. They are engaged in a series of interesting projects, and I'm confident we'll meet and talk many times during our stay here.

I am the first American to come to the Fisheries University, but the University has had exchanges with Australians, Canadians, and Danes, among others. As far as we can tell, ours are the first western children, particularly American children, that most people have ever seen in person, let alone met. The children are growing used to being the object of stares.

Everyone has been very welcoming and very helpful. We're enjoying our stay very much.

Fulbright Conference registration guidelines

Due to the lack of interest among the targeted group of Fulbrighters in Vietnam, the Fulbright Program will change the registration guidelines for the Fulbright Conference scheduled for May 19 in Hanoi. The Conference was intended to give Vietnamese Fulbright scholars and U.S. Fulbright students an opportunity to present their research findings to their peers in Vietnam. However, since many Fulbrighters have yet to register for the Conference and fewer still have agreed to present or moderate, the Conference will allow *all* Fulbrighters to participate as presenters or moderators.

Those who have already registered as a presenter or moderator will be mailed more information on the Conference in April. For those who have not registered for the Vietnam Fulbright Conference, the registration deadline has been extended to May 1. If you would like to participate as a presenter, moderator, or guest at the Conference, please mail or fax your Pre-registration Form and Call for Papers to the Public Affairs Section - Hanoi office, 6 Ngoc Khanh, Ba Dinh District, Hanoi, (04) 747-0033. To request another Pre-registration Form and Call for Papers, please call (04) 831-4580, extension 150, or email: fulbrightvn@fpt.vn.

FULBRIGHT FEATURE:**Do Van Xe researches regional welfare modeling at Oklahoma State University**

The following is a report from Do Van Xe, a Vietnamese Fulbright Student conducting economic research at the Oklahoma State University, USA.

Greetings all! I am very happy to have this opportunity to report to all of you about my progress as a Fulbright Student. I have been studying and researching at the Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Sciences at the Oklahoma State University (OSU) since January 1997, the beginning of my Fulbright grant. For the last two years, I have been taking courses and talking to professors and experts in the field of rural development economics. My studies at OSU concentrate on regional policy analysis because I am very interested in research methodology, an area that still needs to be developed in Vietnam.

I have recently finished the course work section of my degree with a 3.93 (out of 4.0) grade point average and have begun work on my dissertation entitled, "General Equilibrium Model Applied to Environmental Economics." The dissertation will build upon the work that I have conducted as a researcher and lecturer of rice sciences at the Farming Systems Research and Development Institute of Can Tho University.

To give you a little history about myself, I started my academic career in agronomy but then concentrated on applied statistics in agricultural research when the International Rice Research Institute awarded me a scholarship to obtain a masters of science in statistics in 1989. Soon after that, I became one of the first participants in the Harvard University-sponsored training course on "Environmental Economics and Policy Analysis," in 1993. Then, in 1997, I was awarded the Fulbright grant to study regional policy analysis at OSU. I understand that my studies in these various fields may lead you to think that I was confused and without direction. Actually, my past studies in diverse fields have given me a broad knowledge which has been very helpful in my current research.

My professors have been very accessible and willing to guide me through the rigors of my research. The camaraderie among my peers and the friendliness of the university community has made my transition to academic life in the United States easier. In addition, I cannot say more about the excellent research facilities and the up-to-date resources available at OSU—the type of research I am conducting here cannot be done with the limited resources in Vietnam. The weather in Oklahoma, however, is a different story. It gets too cold in the winter for me and very hot in the summer.

One thing that I have become very aware of in my research is the vast differences in the institutional and infrastructural conditions between Vietnam and the United States. Many of the things I have learned here cannot really be applied directly to Vietnam because of these differences. Instead, the work that I've done must be adapted to fit the conditions back home. This process of adaptation is a difficult task, but I think in the end is it the most effective way to affect change and make a contribution to Vietnam's development.

I hope to be able to see and share with you all my research experience at the Vietnam Fulbright Conference in May.